

Simple Gifts
To Build A
Future for
Ourselves
and
Children



Dennis D. Embry, Ph.D. PAXIS Institute;

Johns Hopkins
Center on
Prevention & Early
Intervention; and

National Center on Early Adolescence, Eugene, OR

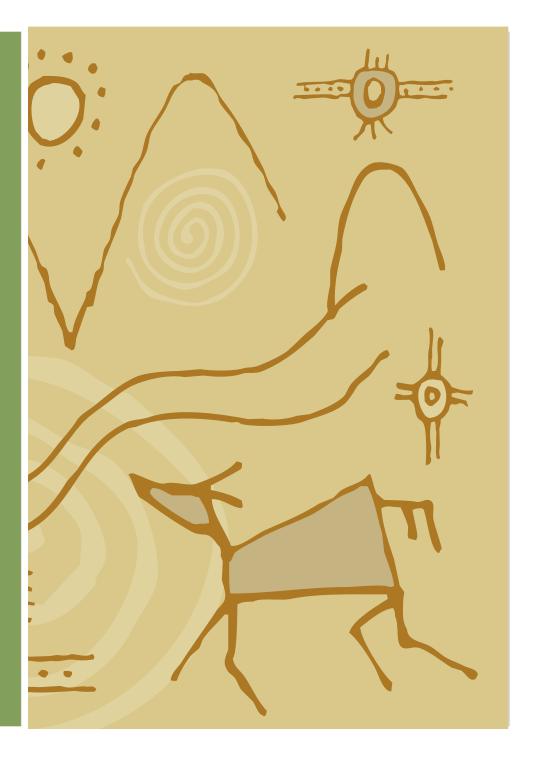
# The first people of California

lived differently



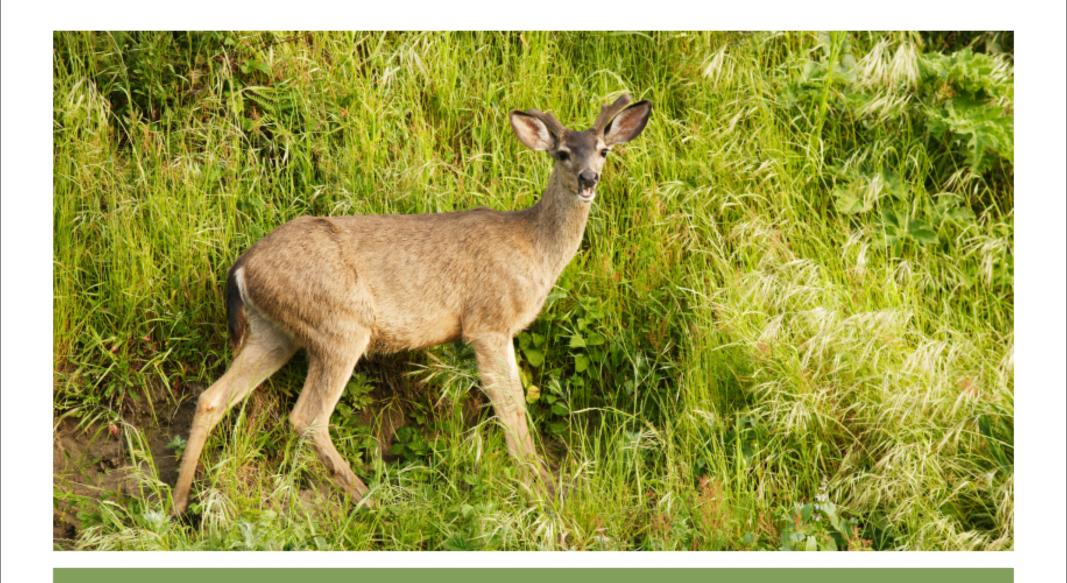
# The First People of California

ate and played differently





They drew from the sun and sea...

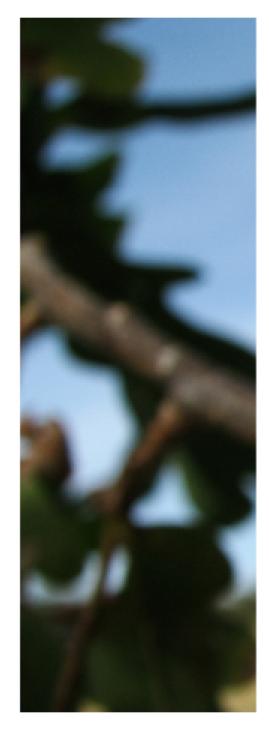


They hunted the game...



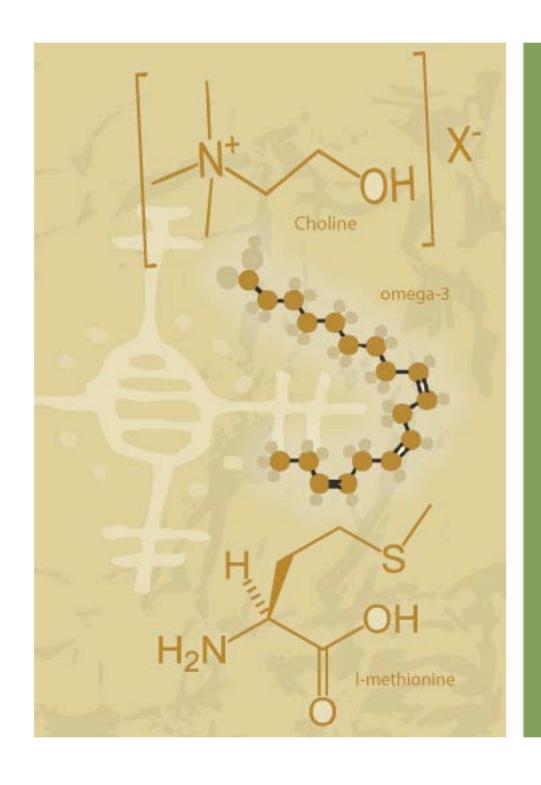


They fished the rivers...





They gathered food...



Food was high in life-giving nutrients for the brain, body, and spirit

Omega-3

Folic acid

Choline

And more...



### They lived differently

# Children had different routines

Everything was made by members of the tribe or traded for things made by others.

Children participated in daily entertainment

Risks were taken to provide for family and clan

All had meaningful roles



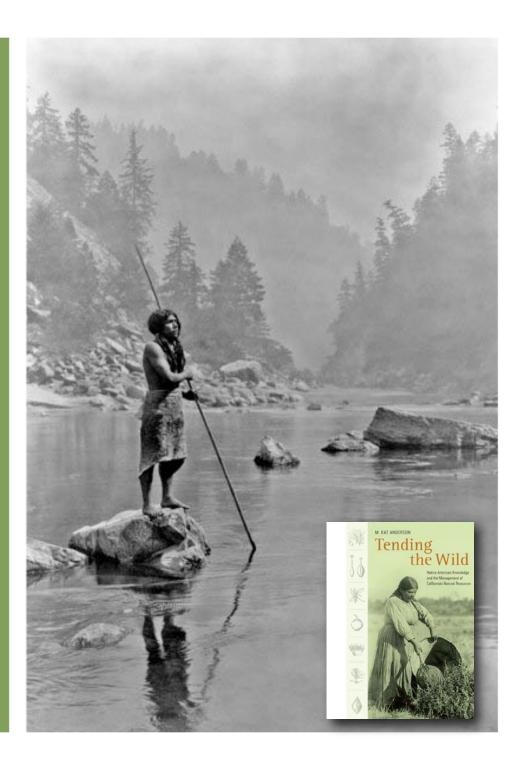


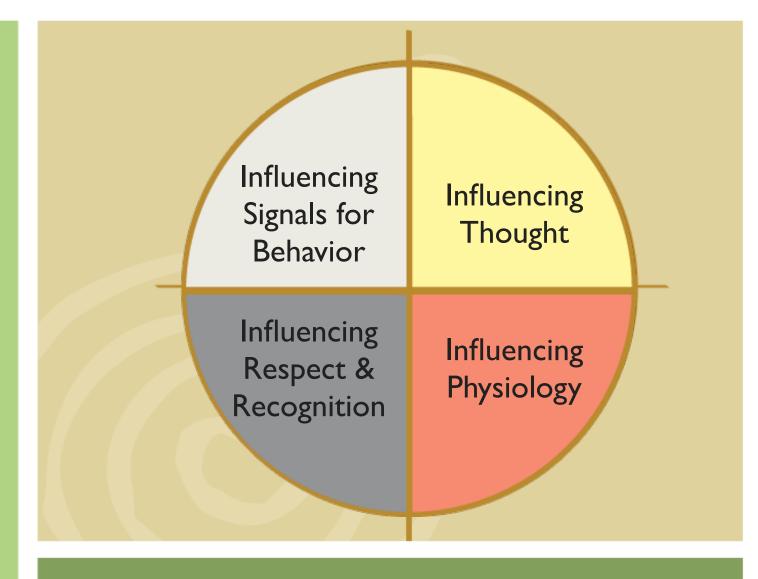
They made tools for every purpose

# They were everyday scientists

They were more than hunter-gatherer stereotype.

California's indigenous people were active agents of environmental change and stewardship. using traditional ecological knowledge essential to live sustainably.





### They invented ways to influence behavior



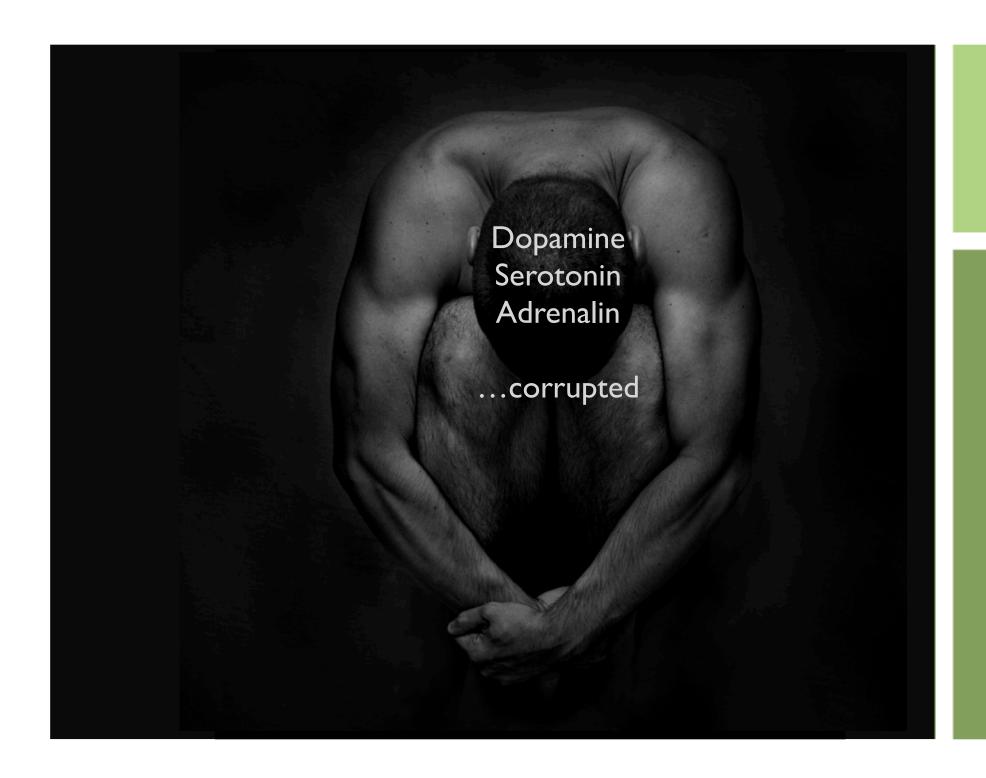


They were adapted...

European Diseases

European Violence

Twin Traumas Struck





### Some unpleasant facts

- Depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety and suicidality are increasing.
- ADHD, oppositional, and conduct disorders are increasing.
  - Obesity is epidemic.

- Learning disabilities and developmental disorders are increasing.
- Inflammatory related diseases have skyrocketed—diabetes, asthma, highblood pressure.
- Addictions remain serious problems.

Broad epidemiological trends are children, teens and adults for all walks of life



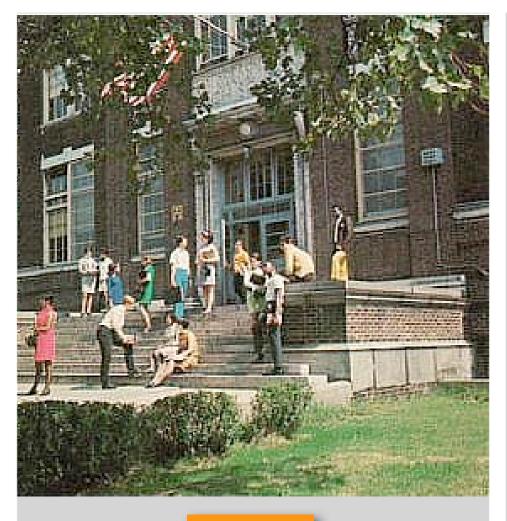
57 Million
Adults with
Substance
Abuse or
Mental Illness

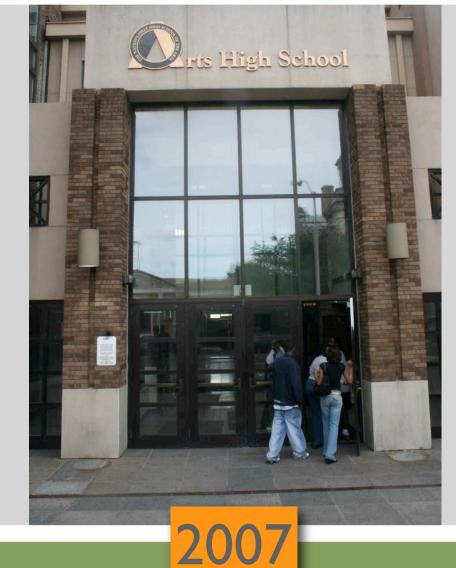
7 Million
Children
evidence one
or more
mental illnesses



9 million teens engage in delinquent behavior each year

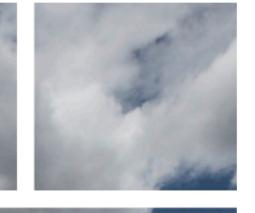


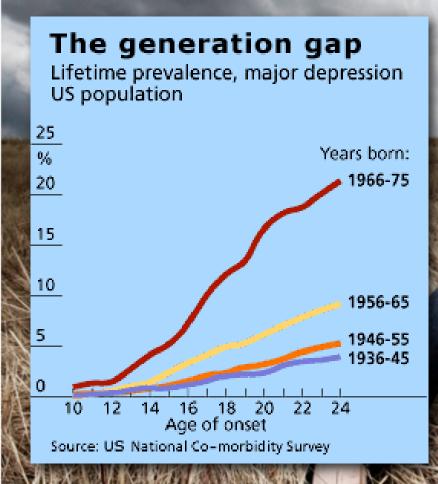




Visit the School Medicine Cabinet

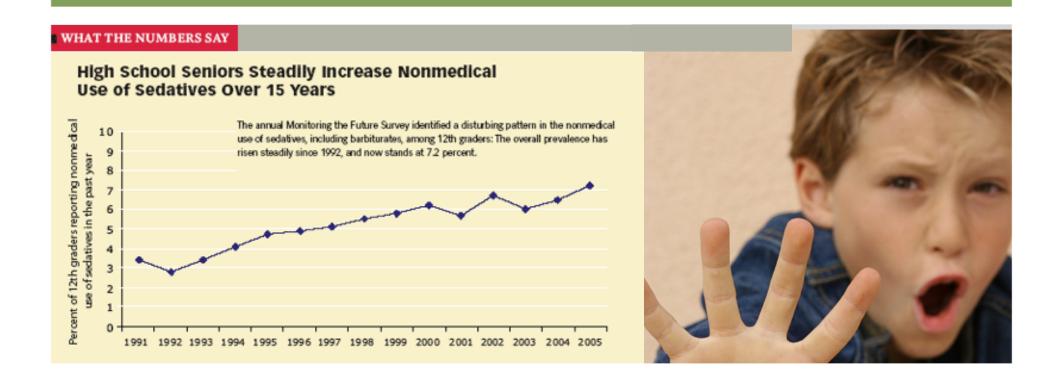
### Depression Data

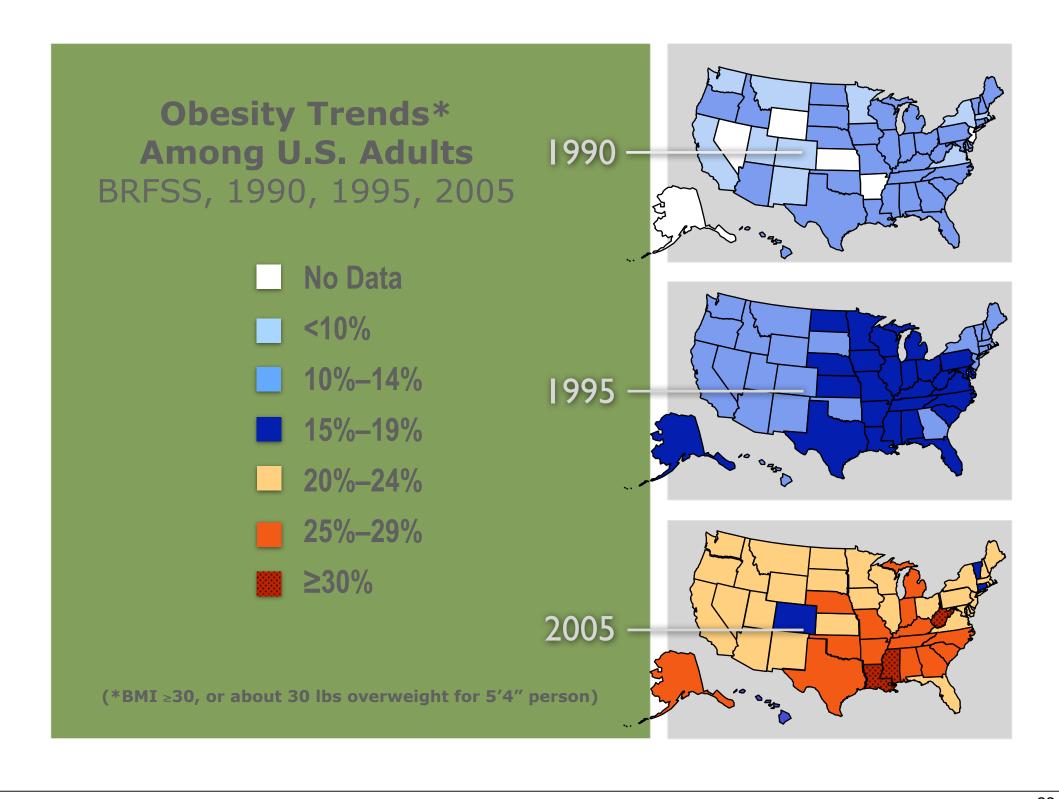






# Anxiety and anxiety prescription drug abuse





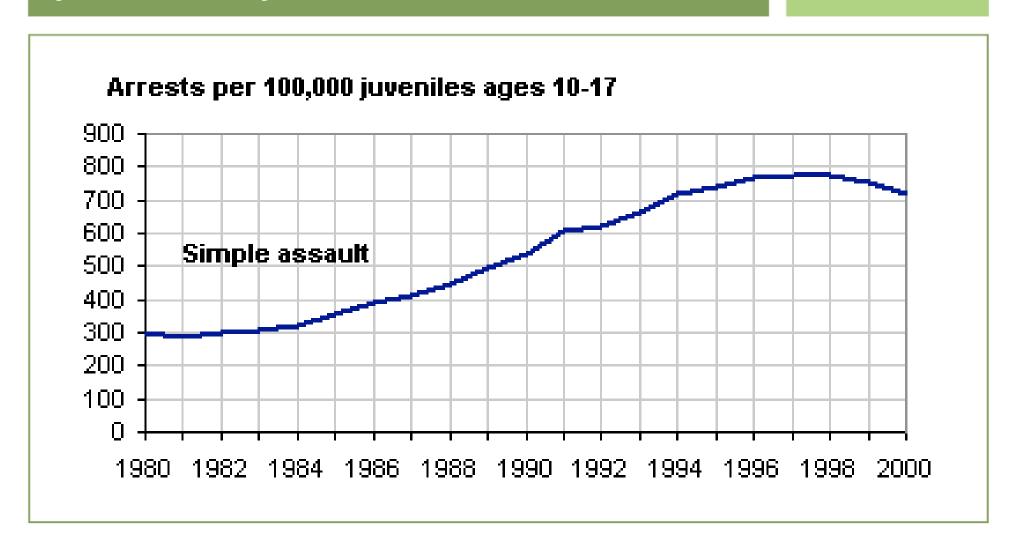
### The Medicine cabinet

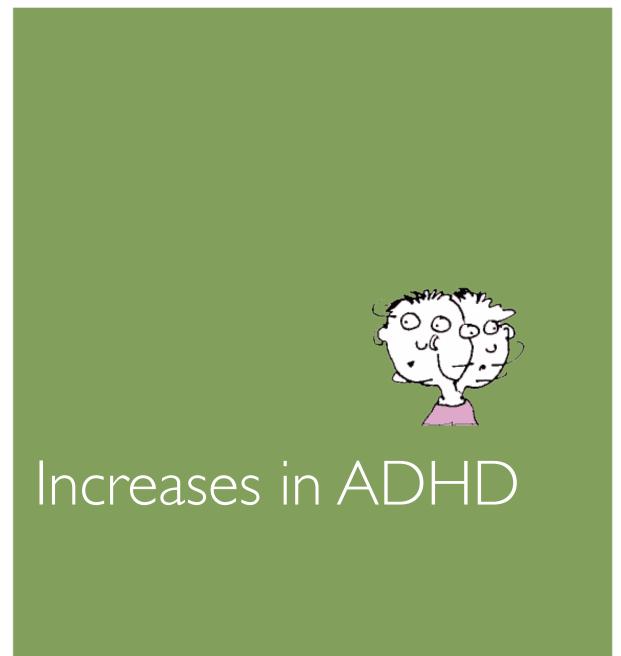
As people become obese or have mental health problems, they are many times more likely to have addictive prescription drugs at home.

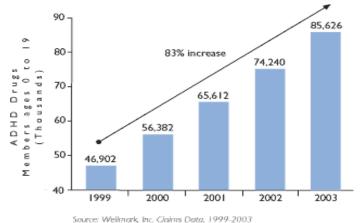
More Americans are abusing controlled prescription drugs than cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants and heroin combined.

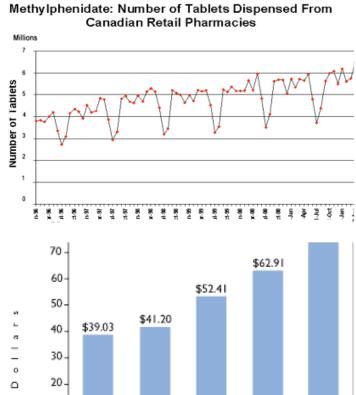


### Juvenile Justice Data









Proxy measures

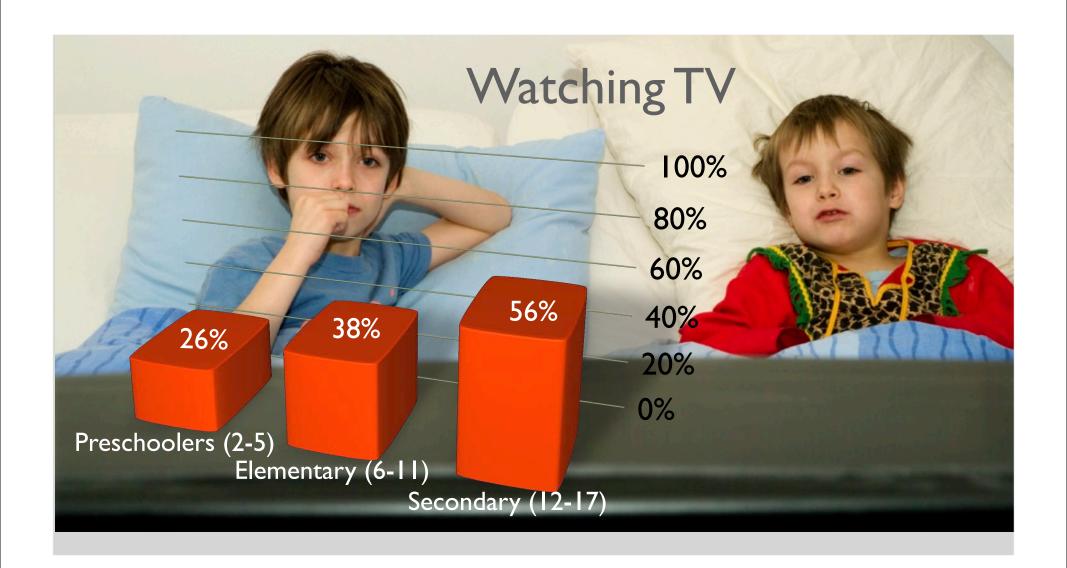
10-

### Vicarious trauma is increasing

Oklahoma Bombing 911 Attacks in NYC

Katrina-Rita





#### What at kids doing in the bedrooms?

Strasburger, V.C. and E. Donnerstein, *Children, Adolescents, and the Media: Issues and Solutions.* Pediatrics, 1999. **103**(1): p. 129-139.







### Subtle Changes in Body, Brain & Behavior

## The impact of TV watching?

All the trends support increased youth alcohol and drug use.

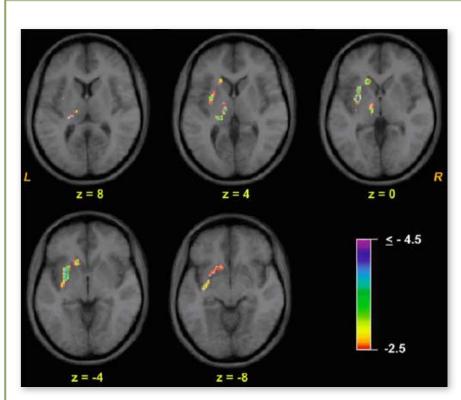
Here are some of the effects...



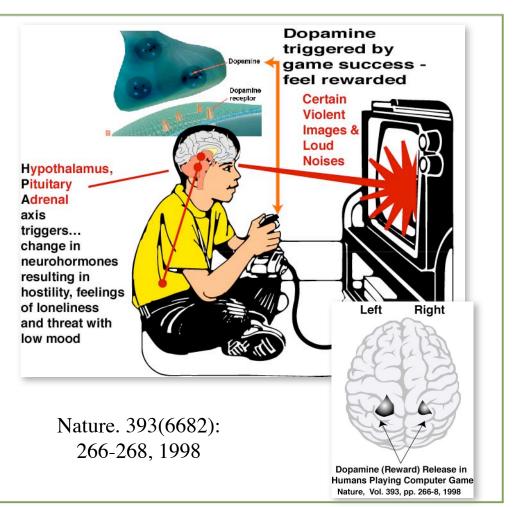




#### Brain Chemicals of Reward



The Journal of Neuroscience, April 28, 2004 • 24(17):4105–4112



### Video games

Young men randomly assigned to play Grand Theft Auto III show greater increases in diastolic blood pressure, greater negative affect, more permissive attitudes toward using alcohol and marijuana, and more uncooperative behavior in comparison with men randomly assigned to play The Simpsons.

 Brady, S.S. and K.A. Matthews, Effects of Media Violence on Health-Related Outcomes Among Young Men. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med, 2006. 160 (4): p. 341-347.





## Cultural shifts in touch

During infancy
At school
In public
Daily home life



Harlow's Monkey Study





Balinese Baby

American Baby





Balinese Baby

American Baby

### Observed teen touching in France and US McDonald's Restaurants



Peer – Touching	France	U.S.
Leaning	52%	20%
Stroking	26%	8%
Kissing	23%	6%
Hugging	7%	2%
Self-Touching		
Hair	21%	38%
Hands	11%	29%
Location on Body		
Head and Shoulders	45%	21%
Arms and Hands	25%	38%
Purpose of Touch		
Affection	43%	11%
Self-stimulation	8%	41%
Affect		
Facial Positive	37%	21%
Facial Negative	7%	11%
Verbal Positive	34%	23%
Verbal Negative	5%	20%
Physical Positive	62%	12%
Physical Negative	2%	16%

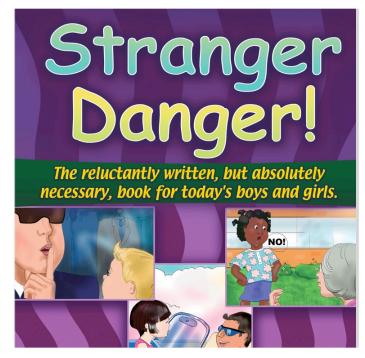
### No-Touching Policies: Perceived and Real



- Relational frame that touching equals sex abuse.
- Formal and informal policies for adults and children prohibiting any touch
  - Story from New York of teacher who hugged a boy who mother had just died
  - Story from Wichita Kansas substitute teach contract
  - Tucson story

# Prevention practices creating moral panic

- Stranger danger training tends to back fire, and most children are actually helped by strangers and harmed by people they know.
- "No Touching" policies are associated with increased aggression and bad behavior rather than less.





# Children and teens have many fewer chores at home, on farms or in community

- Chores have built in accountabilities when parents are not around.
- Chores create reinforcement from adults for helping and other positive behaviors.
- Chores reduce time watching TV, playing computer games, doing drugs or alcohol, and reduce time for sex play.





"How is the homework going?"

### Supervision is more difficult

"Patty and I are doing algebra now, yuk."

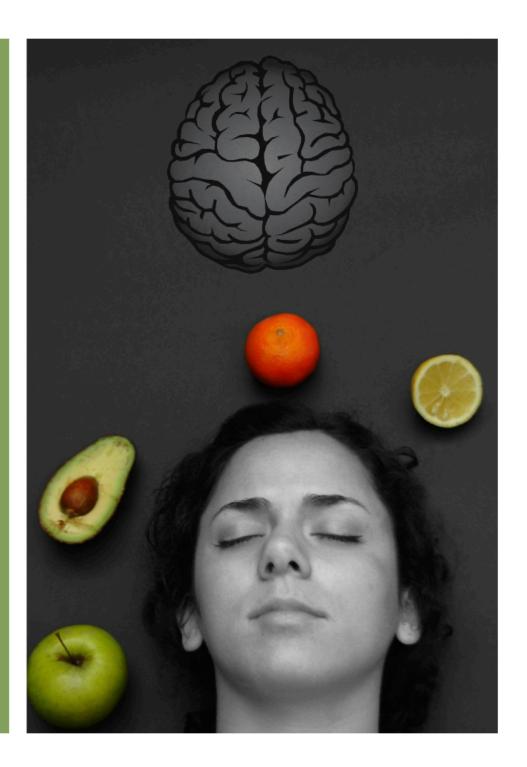
- Cellphones mean a kid can be anywhere
- Privacy regulations make it difficult to get land-line numbers of families of your kid's friends.





#### "Brain Food"

Diet has changed significantly in the past 50, 25 and even 10 years. These changes alter brain chemistry and contribute to many observed behavioral trends of depression, bipolar disorder, autism, violence and academic problems. Most people are not aware of these data.







#### Omega 6

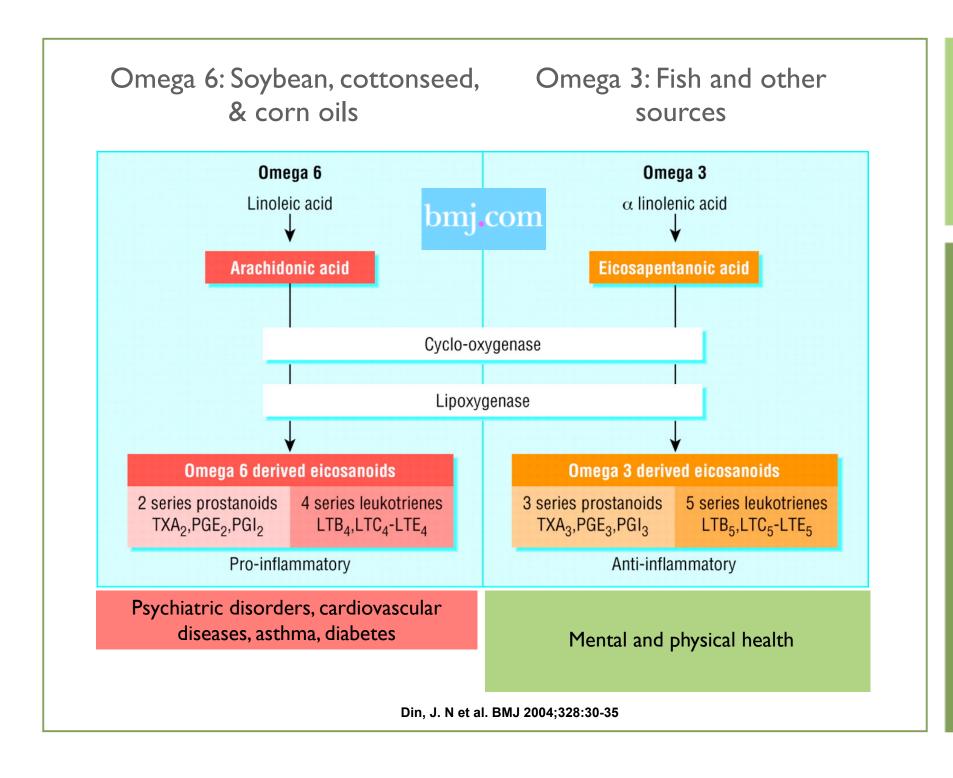
(e.g., soybean, corn, cotton seed oil)

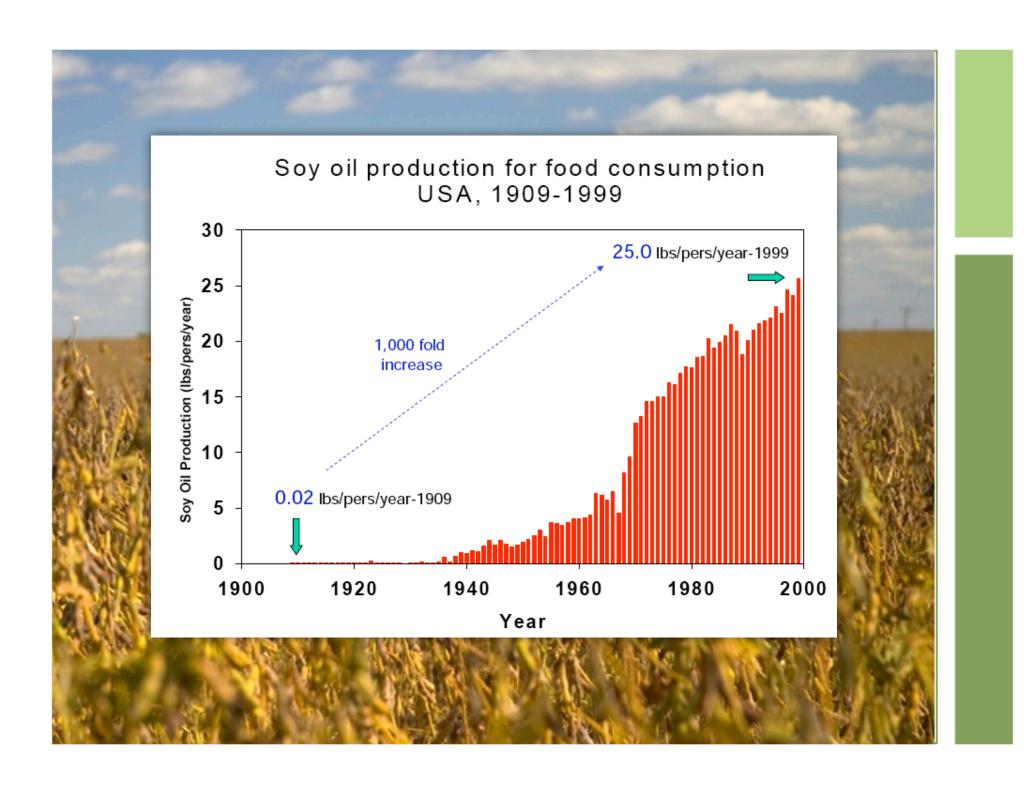
#### Omega 3

(Fish & Range Fed Stock)

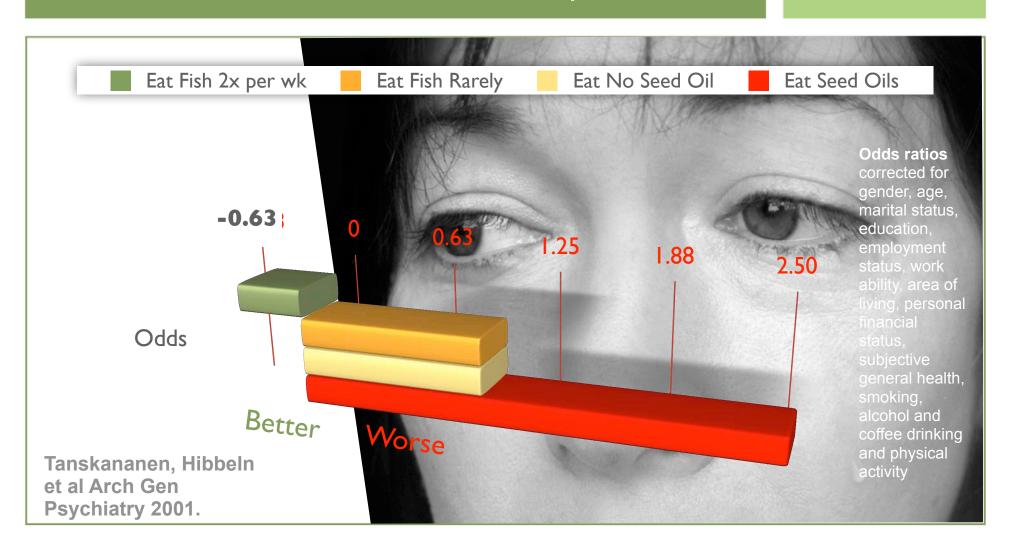


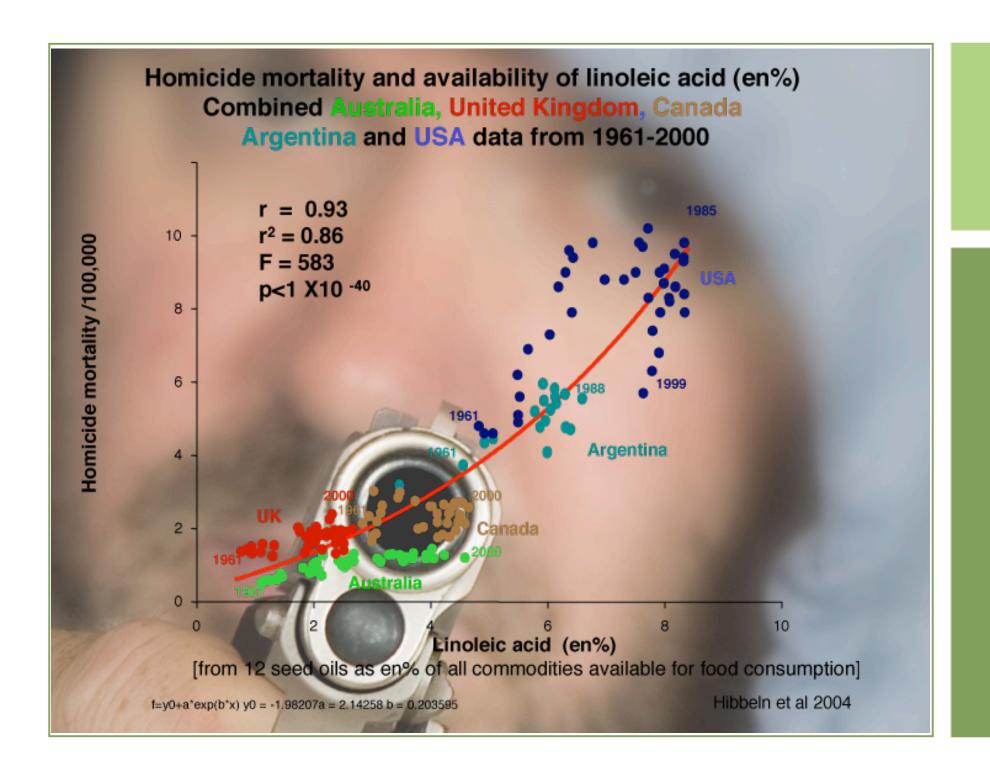
What do kids eat the most of today?

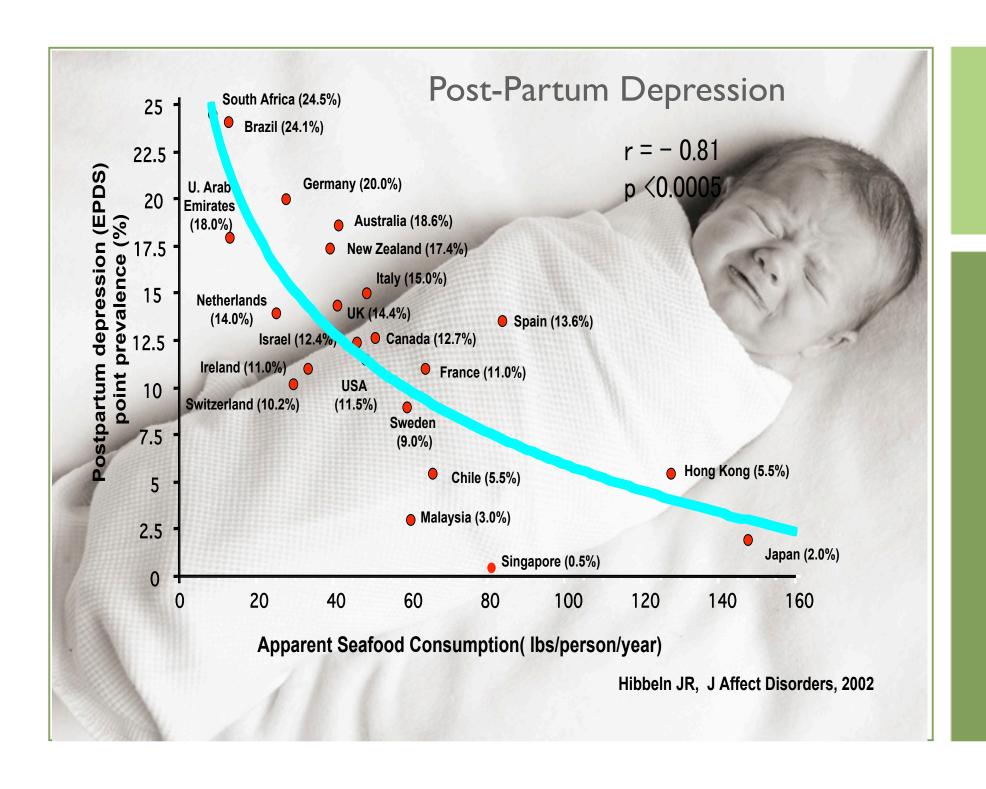




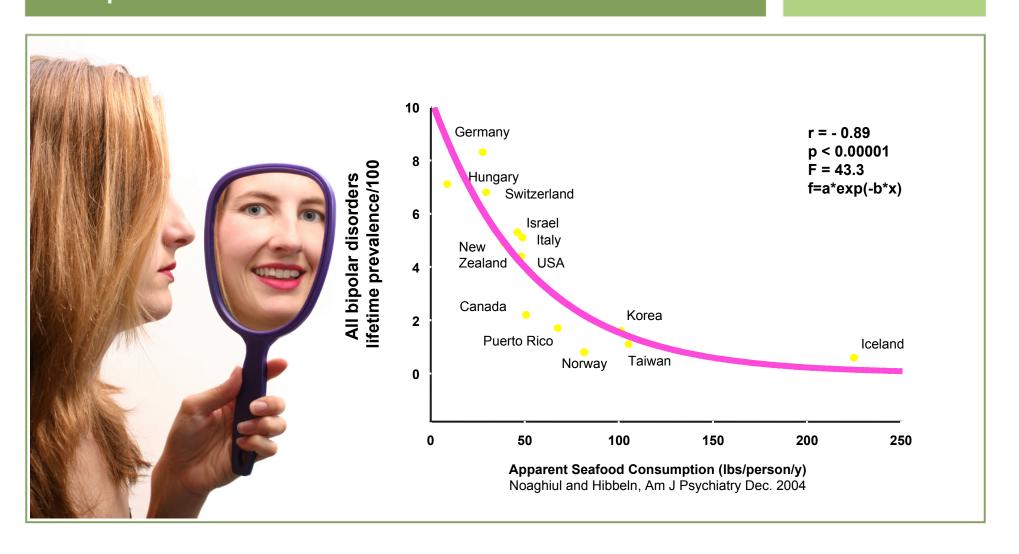
### Impact on depression based on oil consumption

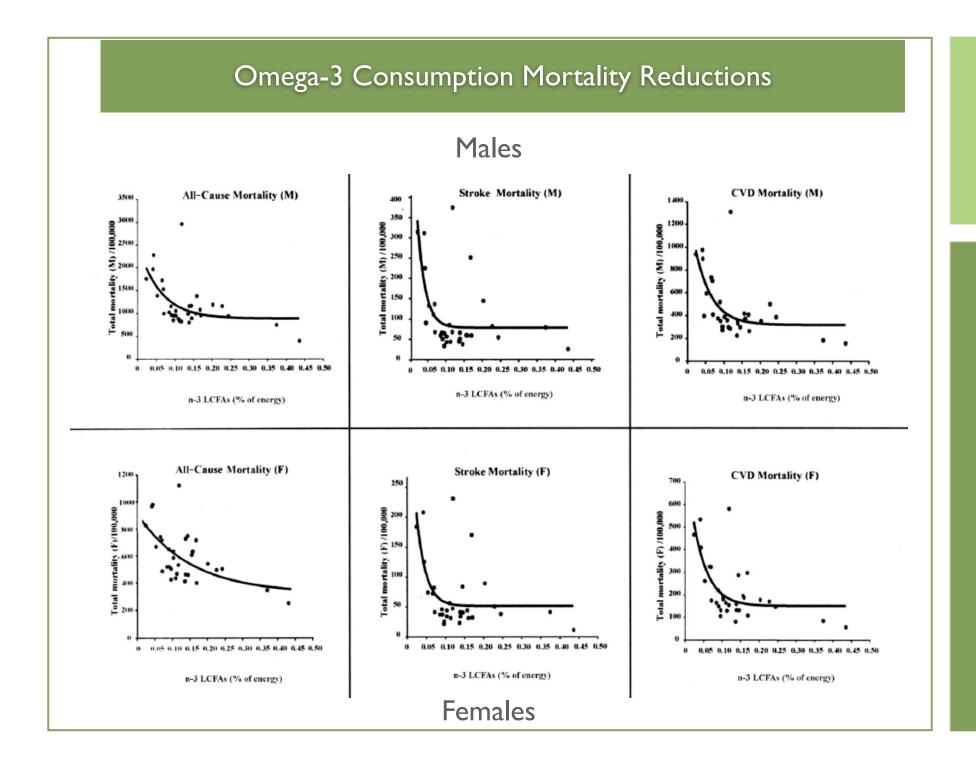




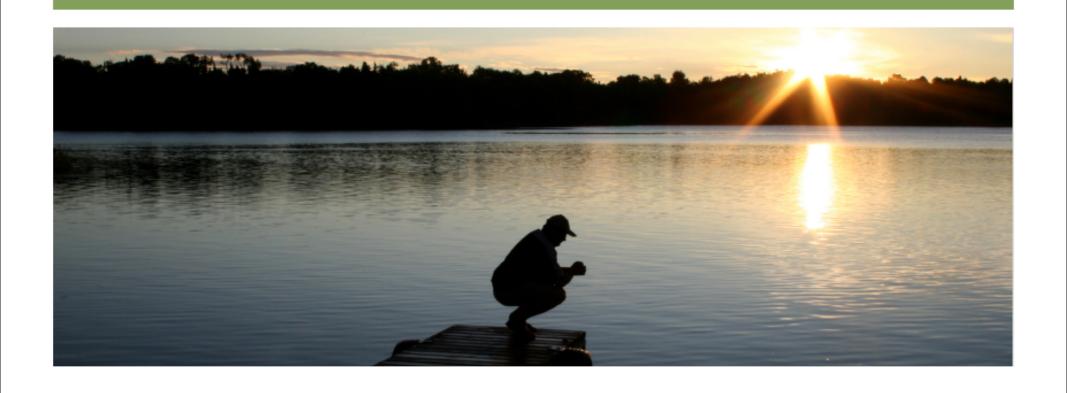


### Bipolar Disorder & Diet

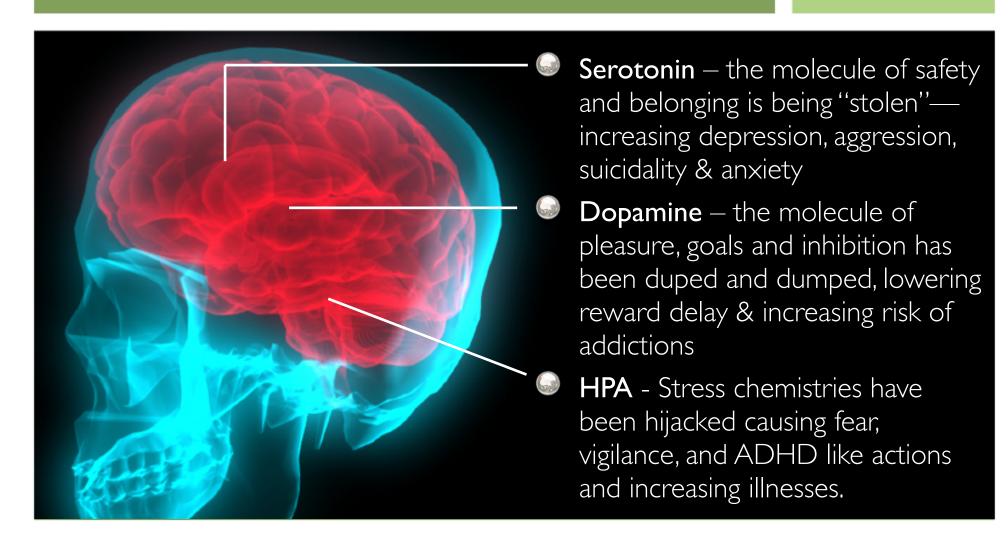




### Clear thinking our children and communties

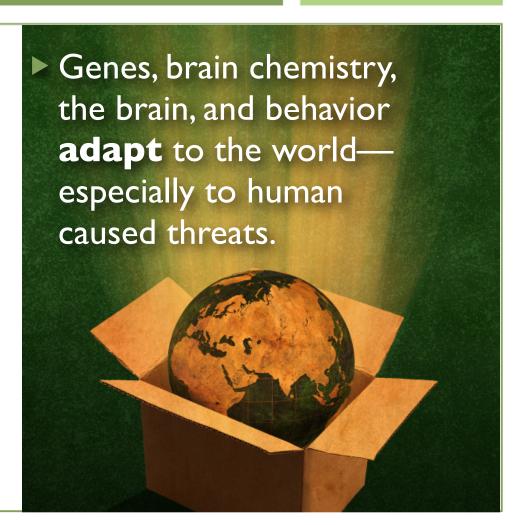


#### Assault on brain chemistry

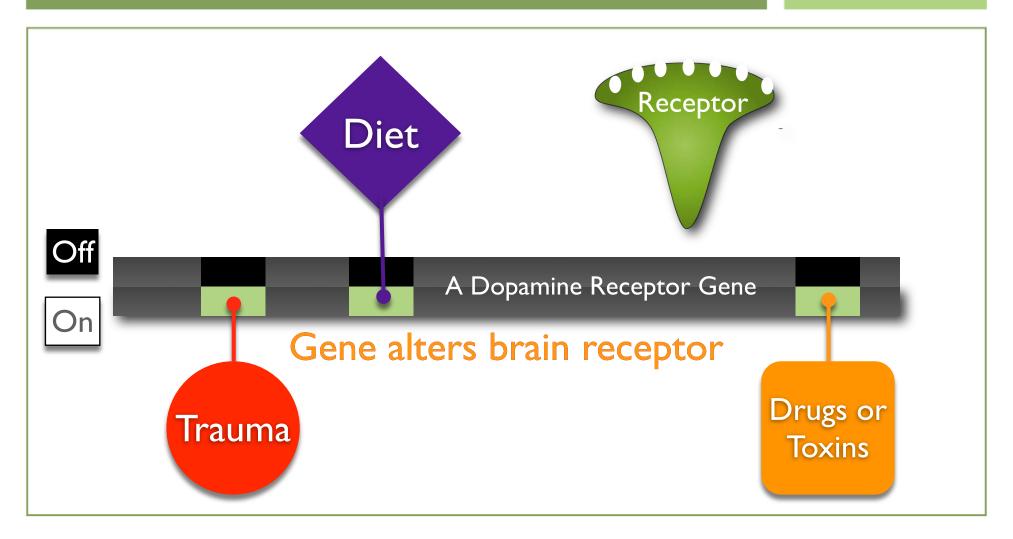


### Using brain science to understand the past & future

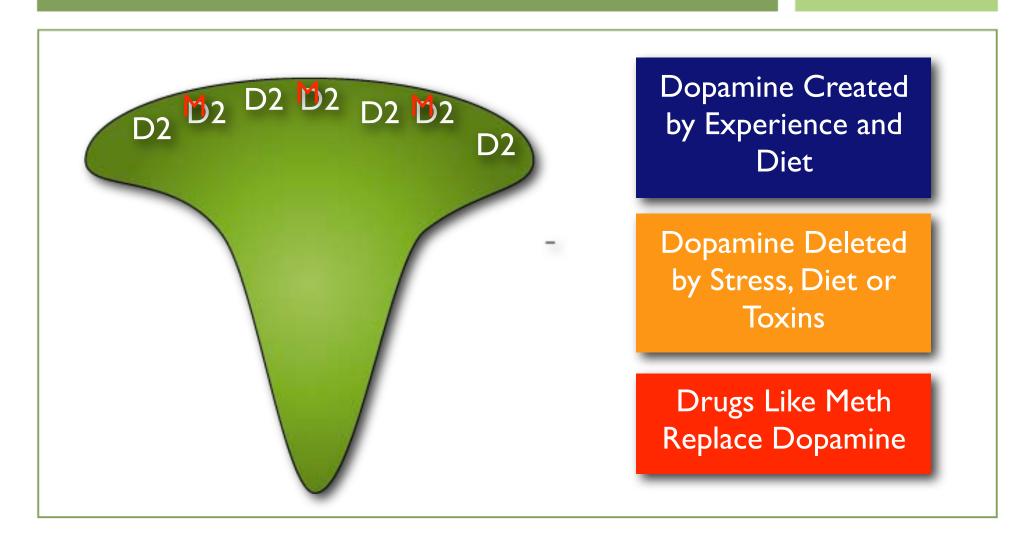
- ► Social "rank" and perceived stress has a significant effect on dopamine (D2) receptor:
  - Loss of status **reduces** dopamine (D2) receptors.
  - Increased status **increases** dopamine (D2) receptors.
- With more D2 receptors, people are less likely to abuse drugs.



### Epigensis: Experience changes gene



# Receptor Change: New Adaptations



### Genes change the brain & behavior

Attention

Reward delay

Cooperation

Cognitive growth

Impulse dyscontrol

Attention deficits

Hyperactivity

Conduct disorder

Drug abuse

**Alcoholism** 

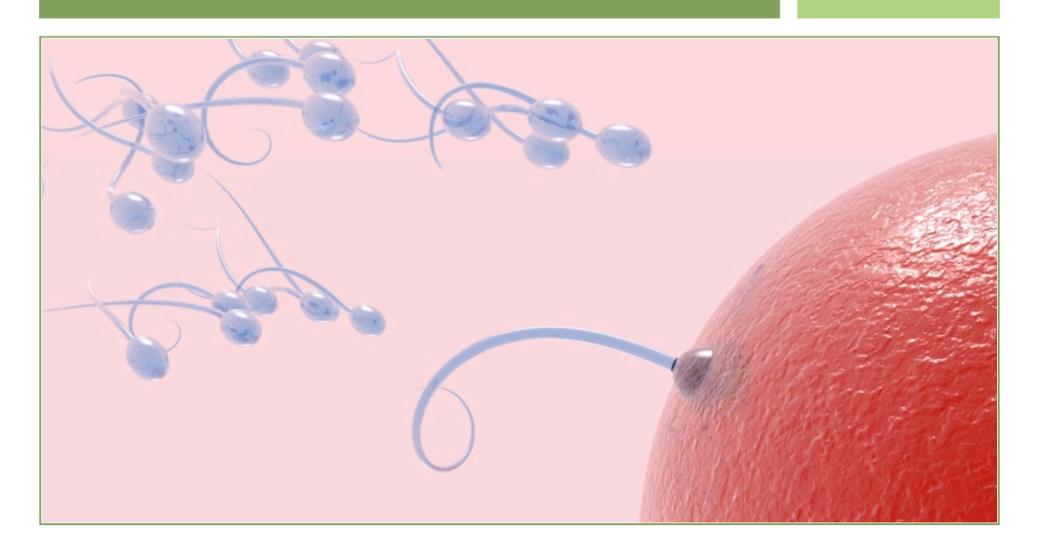
**Impulsivity** 

Sucidiality

Violence

Aggression

# The changed gene change the sperm and egg



# Changing the baby and the eggs or sperm in it

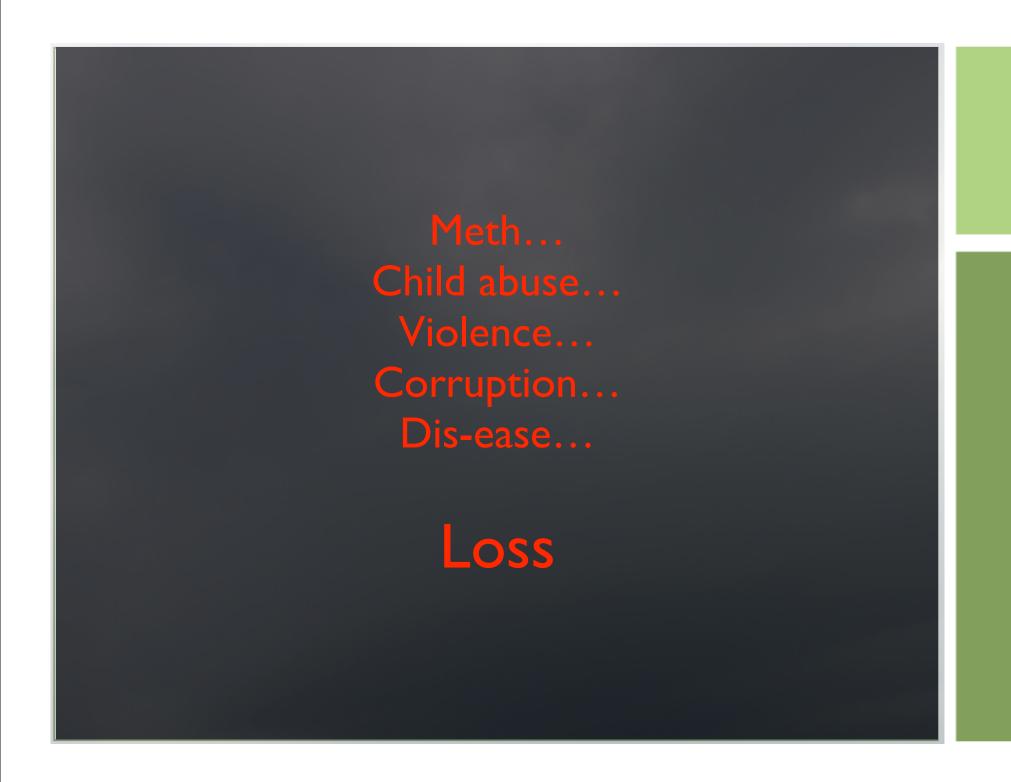


The Past

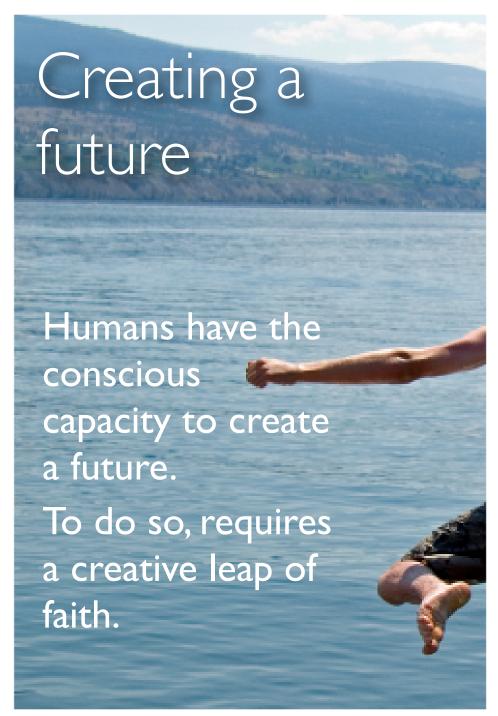
The Future

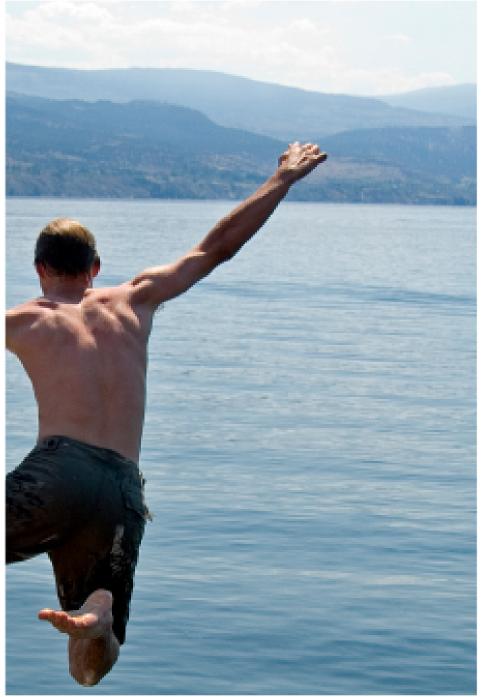


The Health of Community









#### Heal the units influences

#### **Antecedents:**

Cultural cues, media, laws, policies, etc.

Culture

Thought

& Spirit

Body

#### Reinforcements:

From peers, from adults, conditioned rewards

Relational Frames:

Identities (US v. Them), "Good" and "Bad", etc.

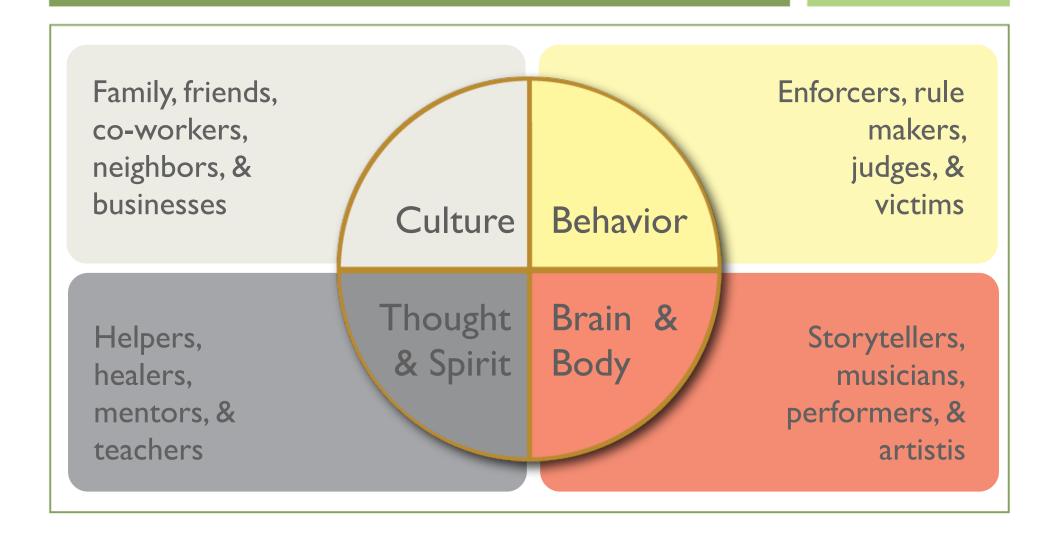
Brain &

Behavior

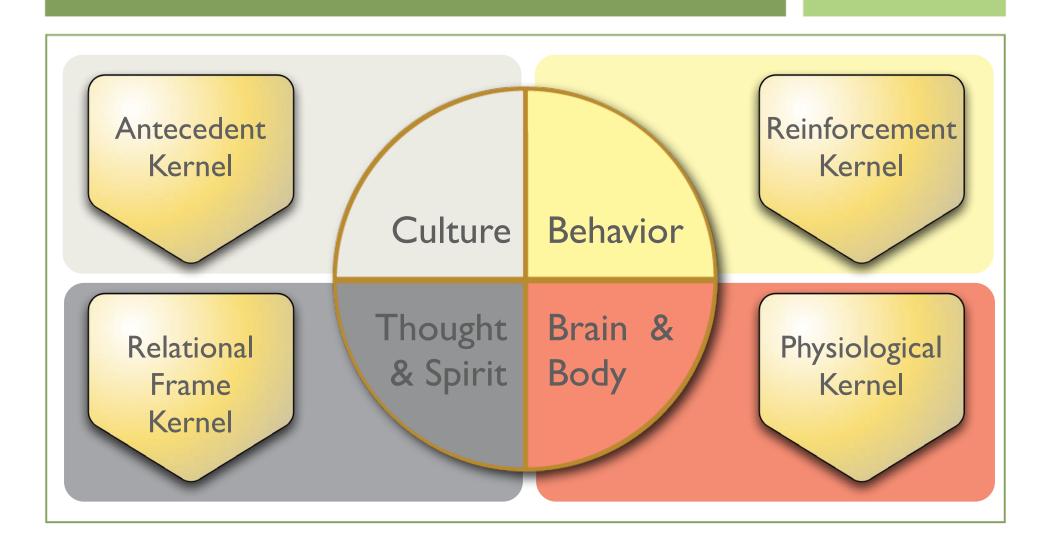
#### Physiological:

Food, activity, legal, or illegal meds, etc.

#### Mobilize the influencers

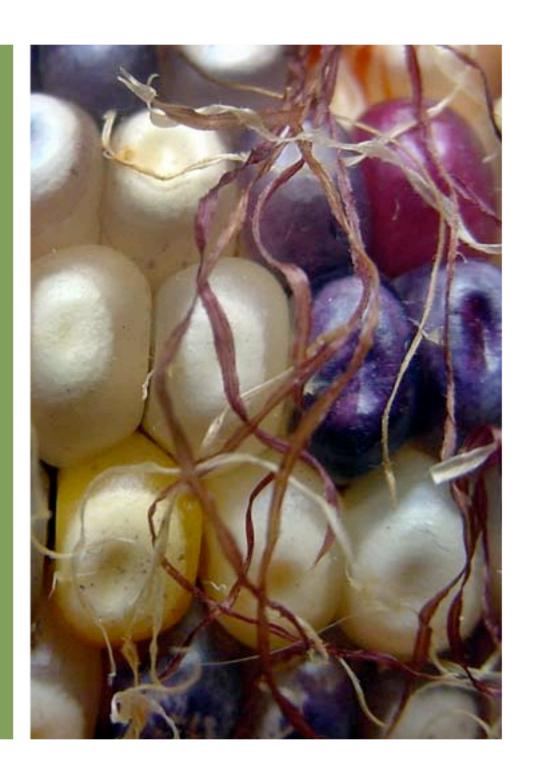


#### Plant new seeds to heal

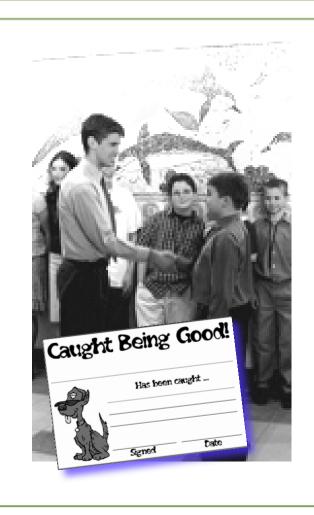


### Evidence-based kernels

are fundamental units of behavioral influence, and Simple Gifts for changing communities to become healthy



## Example of kernels in a prevention program



#### Seattle Social Development Study

- Adults instructed to greet and shake hands of five students NOT in their classroom each day.
- Adults instructed to give out "caught you being good" tickets every day.
- Results 10 years later.

### Utility of kernels

#### ARTICLE

COMMUNITY-BASED PREVENTION USING SIMPLE, LOW-COST, EVIDENCE-BASED KERNELS AND BEHAVIOR VACCINES

Dennis D. Embry PAXIS Institute

Embry, D.D., Community-Based Prevention Using Simple, Low-Cost, Evidence-Based Kernels and Behavior Vaccines. Journal of Community Psychology, 2004. **32**(5): p. 575.

- Replicated
- Simple to explain & use
- Scalable to populations
- Adaptable and flexible to contexts
- ► Produce fast results
- Robust to dose and fidelity
- ► Have multiple effects
- Can be added to enhance existing efforts

#### Four Types of Kernels

Antecedent Kernel Reinforcement Kernel Relational Frame Kernel Physiological Kernel

Planted kernels create a culture.











Example Antecedents

#### PAX it

Dear Mrs. Smith,
David paid
attention today and
did not disrupt
class. Please praise
him.

Ms. Ramirez

Written or verbal praise



Response cost for engaging in action

Money or gambling activity



Citation or punish-ment



Reinforcement Kernel

# Example Reinforcement (consequences)

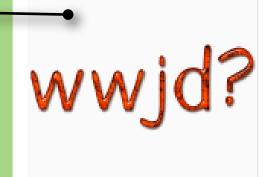


"Support our troops."



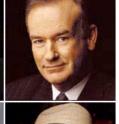
"They like hip-hop style."

"What would Jesus do?"



"That's a
Liberal /
Conservative
position."









Relational Frame Kernel

### Example Relational Frames

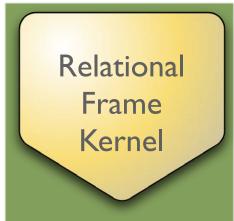


Physiological Kernel

### Example Physiological Kernels





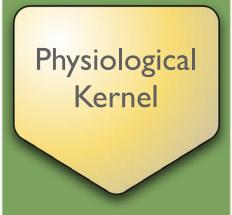












Kernels—Simple Gifts—can be applied to change communities

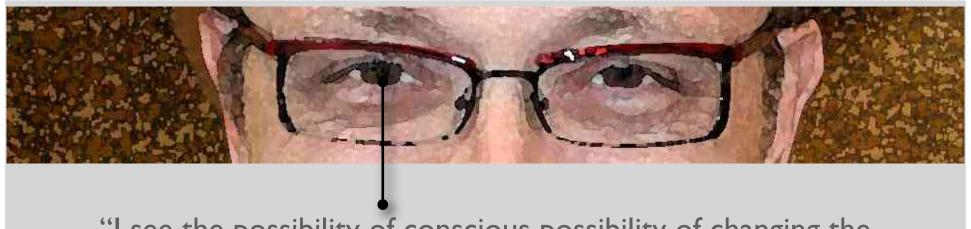
## Antecedent kernel example

And you are using it now...





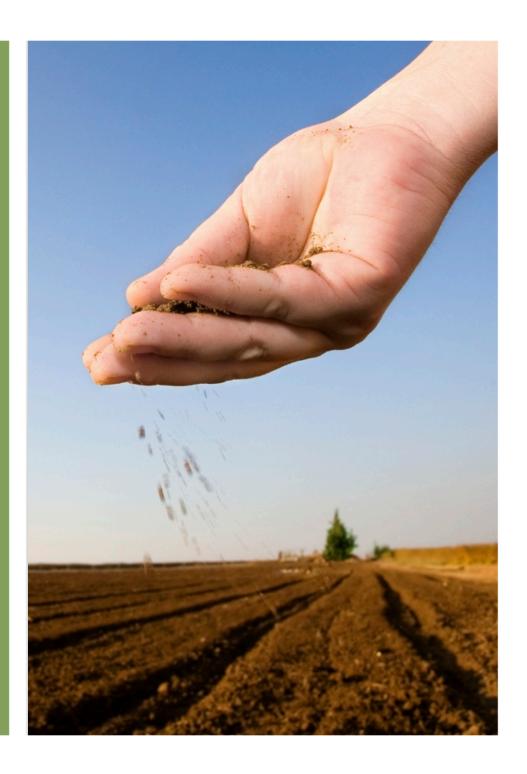
#### My vision, my invitation, my aim



"I see the possibility of conscious possibility of changing the future of children, of families, of communities, the country and the world. Join in re-aiming our collective efforts."

# Picking your kernels for planting

There are over 100 evidencedbased kernels you can plant for community-level change.





### Planted, can significantly

Reduce obesity

Increase academic achievement

Reduce ADHD

Reduce bullying and violence

Increase predictions of lifetime health







### Planted, can dramatically

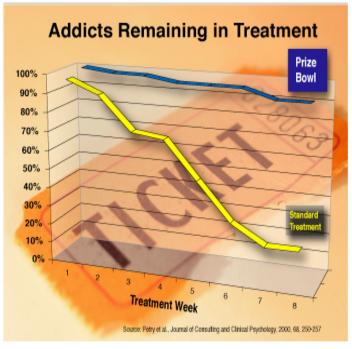
Reduce Meth addiction inexpensively

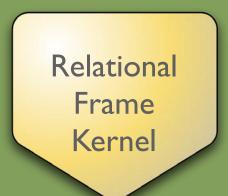
Reduce other drugs use in adults & teens

Reduce alcohol, tobacco and drugs during pregnancy

Improve completion of goals and healthy living in teens and adults







### Planted, can significantly

Increase achievement

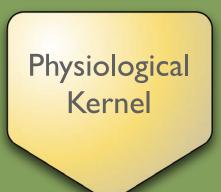
Increase resiliency

Increase long-term goal attainment

Reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug use







### Planted, can significantly

Reduce post-partum depression

Reduce homicide and suicide

Reduce developmental disabilities

Reduce diabetes and asthma

Increase children's IQ

Reduce cardio-vascular disease







#### Leveraging solutions



Everyone here
worked to leverage
solutions for
change, to reduce
common problems
affecting our
communities

The Problem to be Changed

Perhaps by using the RE-AIM formula

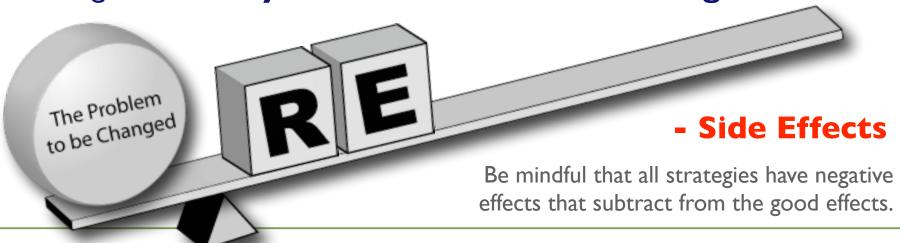
#### Efficacy



► Efficacy/Effectiveness is the impact of a strategy on important outcomes. This includes potential negative effects, quality of life, and costs

or increase in positive outcomes. Think of this of this measured ability to produce the change if used—from none to highly potent.

Higher efficacy X more reach = more leverage



#### Adoption



Adoption is the absolute number, proportion, and representativeness of people, settings and/or staff who are willing to offer a strategy.

Notice there can be multiple levels of people or settings who must adopt the strategy to achieve results.

Hi efficacy X large reach X many adoptions = more leverage



#### Implementation

► Implementation, at a setting level (home, clinic, office, business, etc), refers to how closely the user or agents (e.g., staff members) follow the

strategy that is recommended or proven. This includes consistency of delivery as intended and the time and cost of the program.

(efficacy X reach X adoptions) X robust implementation = Hi leverage



#### Maintenance

- Maintenance is the extent to which a strategy, program or policy becomes routine or stable organizationally.
- At the individual level, maintenance is the long-term effects on outcomes after 6 or more months after adoption and implementation.

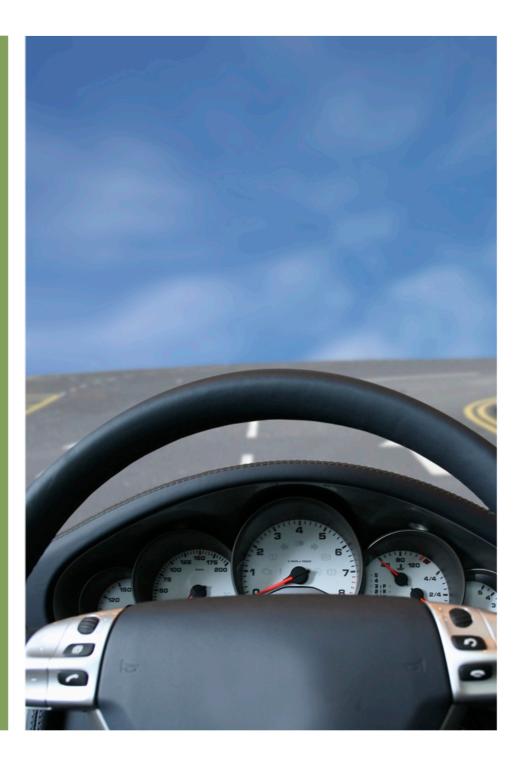


### Community Dashboard

Developmental perspective

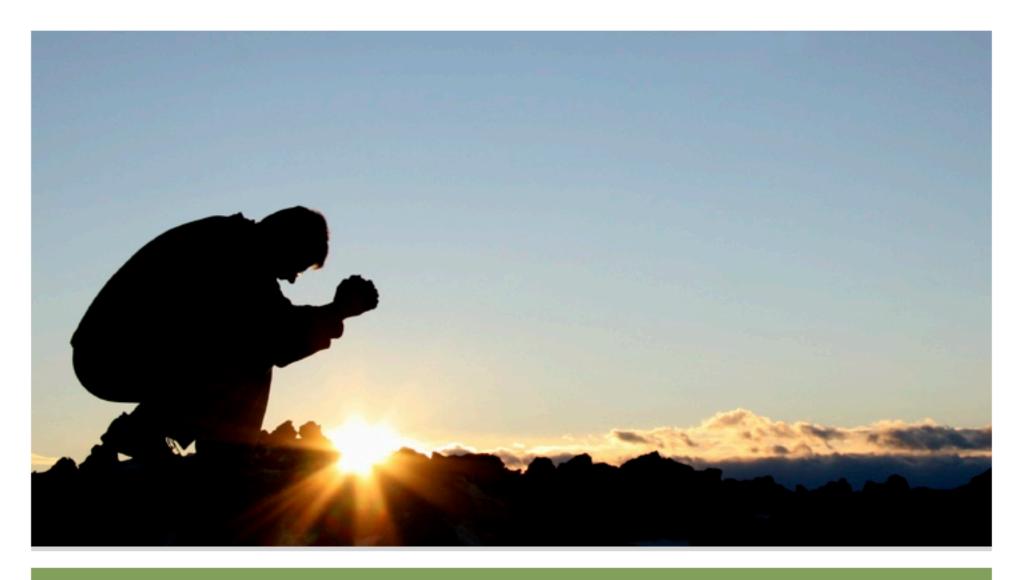
- Prenates
- Infants
- young children
- Teens
- Adults

Weekly or 30-day indicators, archival and new
Weekly or 30-day publicity
Multi-problem or Syndemics
approach embedded









The historical wounds exists; let us create the future for all our children.

Let us create council to select, devise and share Simple Gifts (kernels) for all our Native children and communities in California



Breakout sessions will be designed to heal and create health communities

9 am Adults

10:40 am Children

with proven evidence based kernels for population groups of our communities that reduce Meth and related problems...

1:30 p-Youth







#### Thank you...

Dennis D. Embry, Ph.D.

President/CEO

**PAXIS** Institute

PO 31205

Tucson, AZ 85751

Ph: 520-299-6770

dde@paxis.org

Bea Ramirez, Executive Assistant

bea@paxis.org

Claire Richardson, PAXIS Institute, claire@paxis.org, 520-907-5240 She is coordinating the Community & School efforts.

presentation available at: <a href="https://www.paxtalk.com">www.paxtalk.com</a>

